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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6112  
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RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 2388  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 4815  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 1430  
RUEHKS/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 3163  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 5988  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 8193  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1796  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 4257  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5276  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - HOUSE ADOPTION OF  
"COMFORT WOMEN" RESOLUTION

LEAD STORIES: Most Wednesday morning papers front-paged

the results of their post-Upper House election opinion  
polls, which showed the public split over PM Abe's  
decision to stay on.

11. "House Adoption of 'Comfort Women' Resolution Could  
Damage US-Japan Relations" The business-oriented Nihon  
Keizai editorialized (8/1): "The adoption by the US  
House of Representatives of a resolution calling for  
the GOJ to formally apologize for the 'comfort women'  
issue could damage US-Japan relations. This is a  
worrisome situation.... Moves that lower the image of  
Japan in the US or lead to the rise of anti-American  
sentiment in Japan would harm both countries. Aside  
from the 'comfort women' issue, there have been other  
negative factors in both countries. In Japan, there is  
strong dissatisfaction with the Bush administration's  
conciliatory policy toward North Korea. Ichiro Ozawa,  
leader of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan

(DPJ), which won a plurality in Sunday's Upper House  
election, expressed opposition to an extension of  
Japan's Antiterrorism Special Measures Law. The US  
would be disappointed if Japan were to suspend the  
Maritime Self-Defense Force's refueling operations in  
the Indian Ocean for US-led coalition ships engaged in  
the antiterrorism campaign in and around Afghanistan."

12. "Concern over Misunderstandings of Historical Facts"

An editorial in the top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri commented (8/1): "The US House adopted the 'comfort women' resolution, apparently based on misunderstandings of historical facts. We can hardly overlook the resolution, even if it is nonbinding.... As a matter of course, the US-Japan alliance is extremely important to Japan's national interest. In addition to their close military and economic ties, the

US and Japan share the values of democracy and human rights. Nevertheless, the GOJ must clearly refute any mistaken facts. Should mistaken historical facts prevail, this will only form the basis for future trouble in the bilateral relationship."

13. "PM Abe Should Issue New Statement Accepting House Resolution" The liberal Asahi editorialized (8/1): "The

US House of Representatives adopted a resolution urging the GOJ to formally apologize for the 'comfort women' issue. The resolution stated: 'The brutality and scale of the pre-WWII comfort women system of forced military

prostitution by the GOJ was unprecedented and one of the the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th century.'... There are concerns in the US that Japan still harbors prewar values, prompting a group of influential US lawmakers to send a letter to the Japanese ambassador in Washington expressing concern over former PM Koizumi's visit to Yasukuni Shrine. Moreover, the ascension of PM Abe as Koizumi's successor heightened the US sense of foreboding.... The

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resolution seeks a formal apology from PM Abe. Silence on his part will only aggravate the situation.... The best course he can take at present is to issue a statement of apology at home and abroad."

SCHIEFFER